



THE WALKING DEAD

50

TM



Cliff 9/07

KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN

i
image

THE WALKING DEAD

50

\$2.99

Cliff Cliff 9/07

KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN

THE WALKING DEAD

50

\$2.99

image

KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN



IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING

DEAD

DEAD

DEAD

TM

ROBERT KIRKMAN

Creator, Writer

CHARLIE ADLARD

Penciler, Inker, Cover

CLIFF RATHBURN

Gray Tones, Cover Colors

RUS WOOTON

Letterer

SINA GRACE

Editor

For Skybound Entertainment

Robert Kirkman
chief executive officer

Shawn Kirkham
director of business development

Sydney Pennington
assistant to mr. Kirkham

J.J. Diddie
president

Tim Daniel
digital content manager

Feldman Public Relations LA
public relations



Sina Grace
editorial director

Chad Manion
assistant to mr. grace

for International Rights inquiries,
please contact sk@skybound.com

www.skybound.com

Previously:

Rick and Carl are alone. Rick, has recently lost consciousness.

For Image Comics



Robert Kirkman
chief operating officer

Eric Stephenson
publisher

Kevin Yuen
digital rights coordinator

Erik Larsen
chief financial officer

Todd Martinez
sales & licensing coordinator

Tyler Shainline
production manager

Drew Gill
art director

Todd McFarlane
president

Sarah deLaine
pr & marketing coordinator

Jonathan Chan
senior production artist

Marc Silvestri
chief executive officer

Branwyn Bigglestone
accounts manager

Monica Garcia
production artist

Jim Valentino
vice-president

Emily Miller
administrative assistant

Vincent Kukua
production artist

Jana Cook
production artist

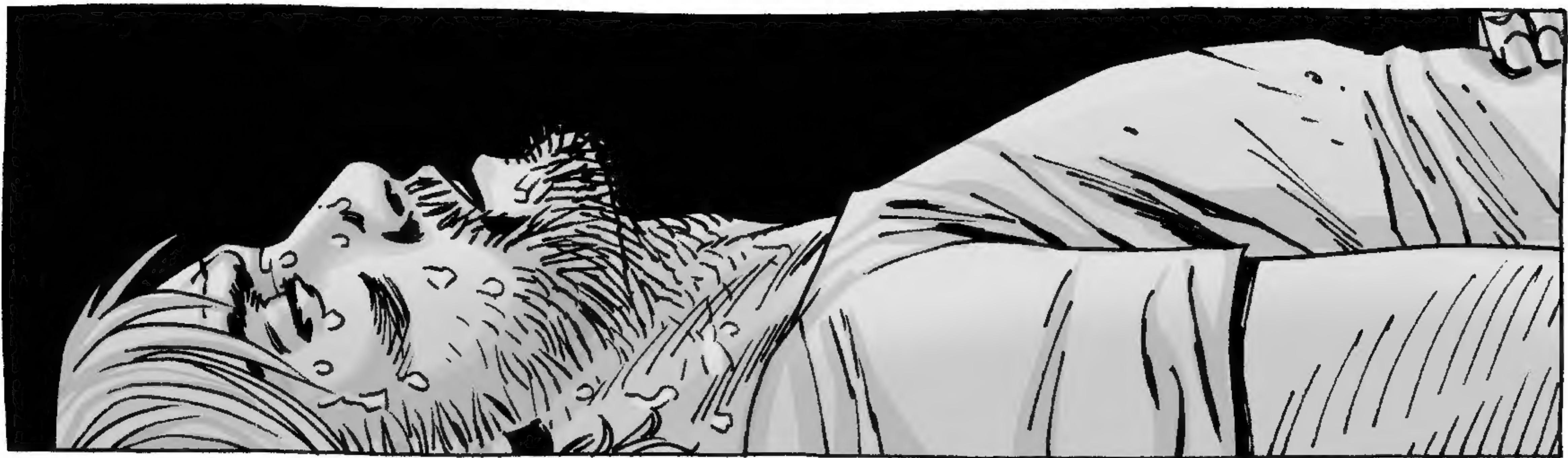
Jamie Parreno
marketing assistant

www.imagecomics.com

THE WALKING DEAD WEEKLY #50. December 2011. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2134 Allston Way, 2nd Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704. Copyright © 2011 Robert Kirkman LLC. All rights reserved. THE WALKING DEAD (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman LLC, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics and its logos are registered trademarks and copyrights of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living and/or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. Printed in the USA. For information regarding the CPSIA on this printed material call: 203-595-3636 and provide reference # EAST - 416351











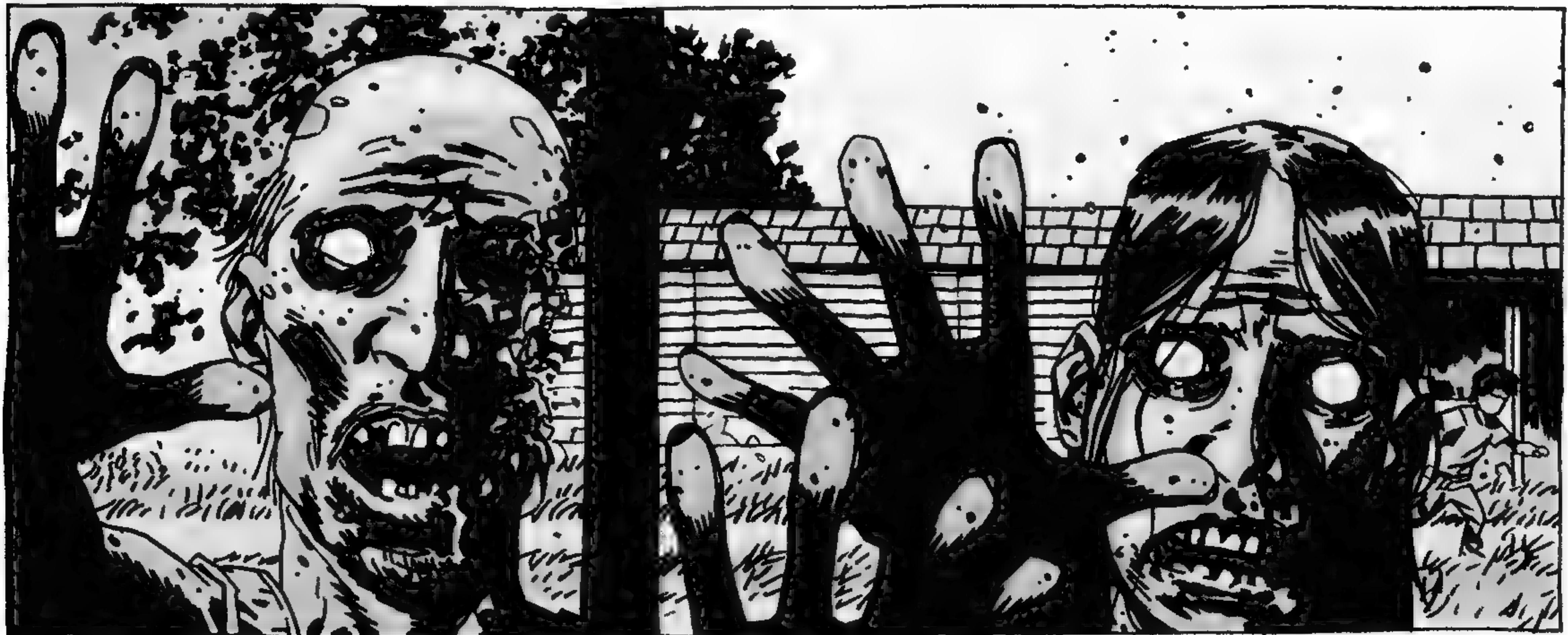


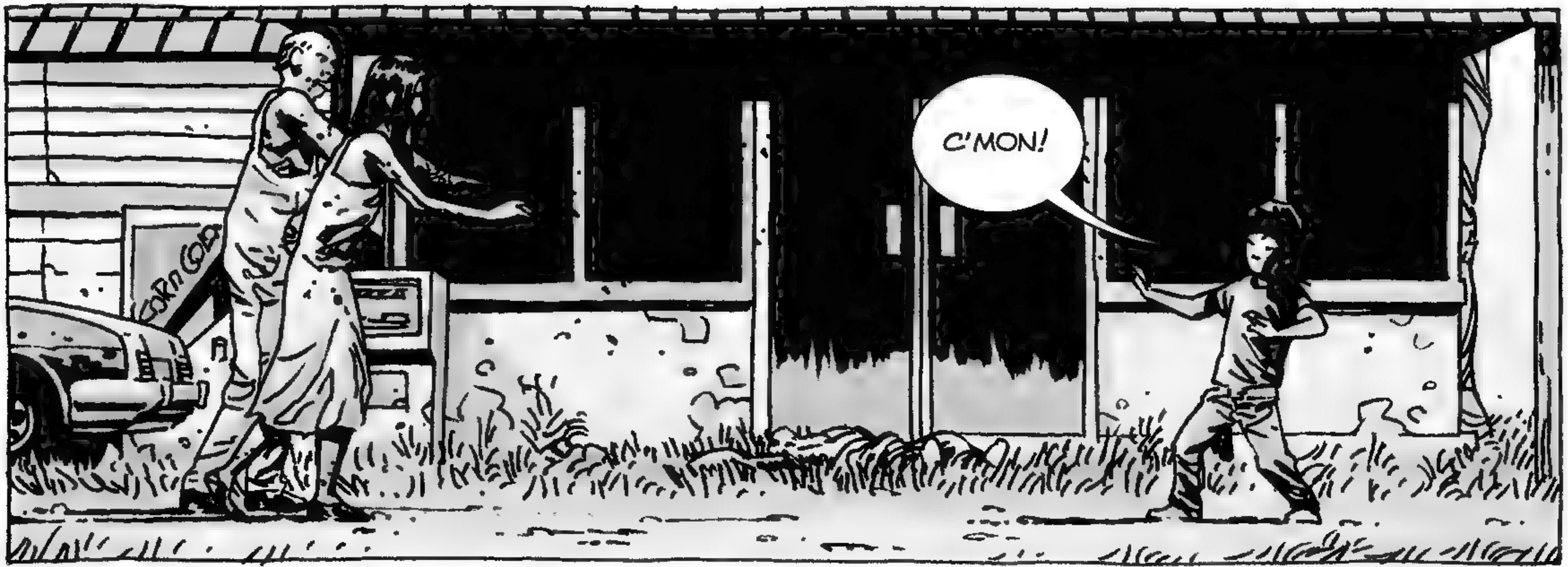
THAP!

HUUUUNGH.

GUH.



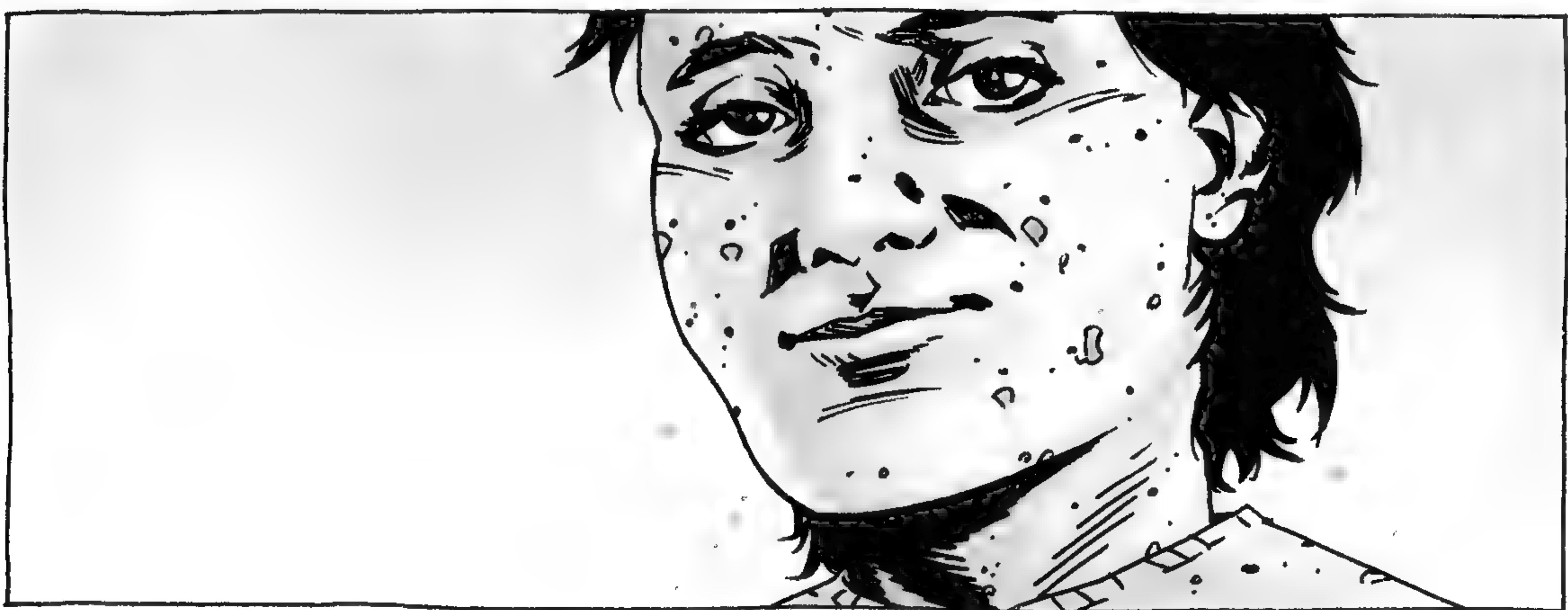
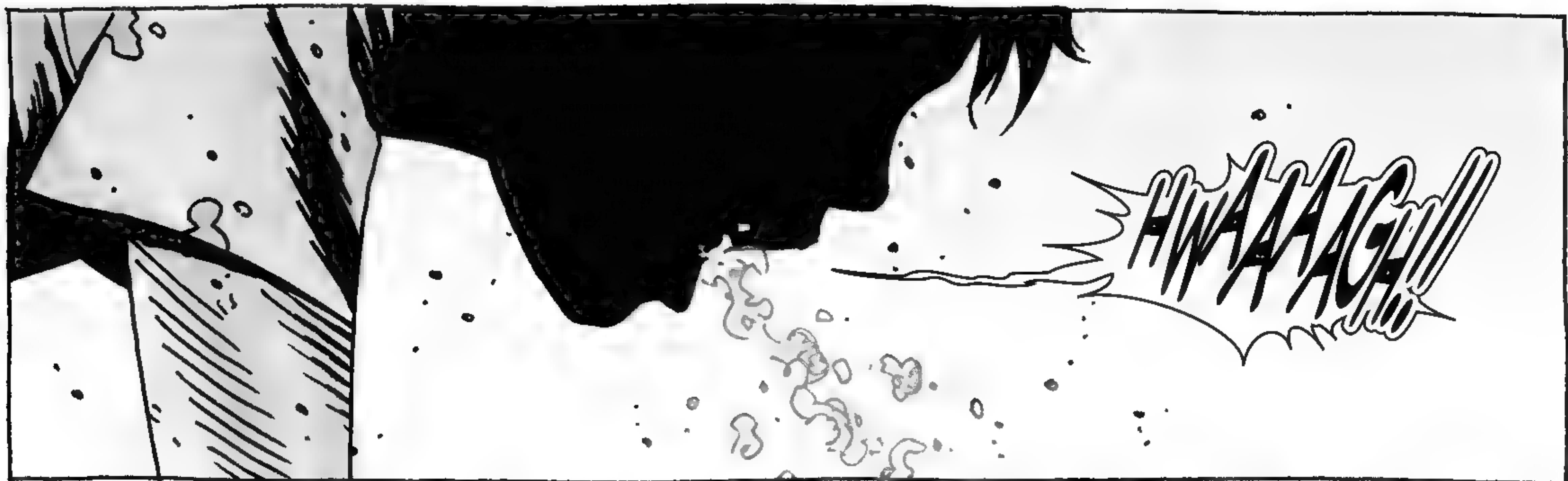


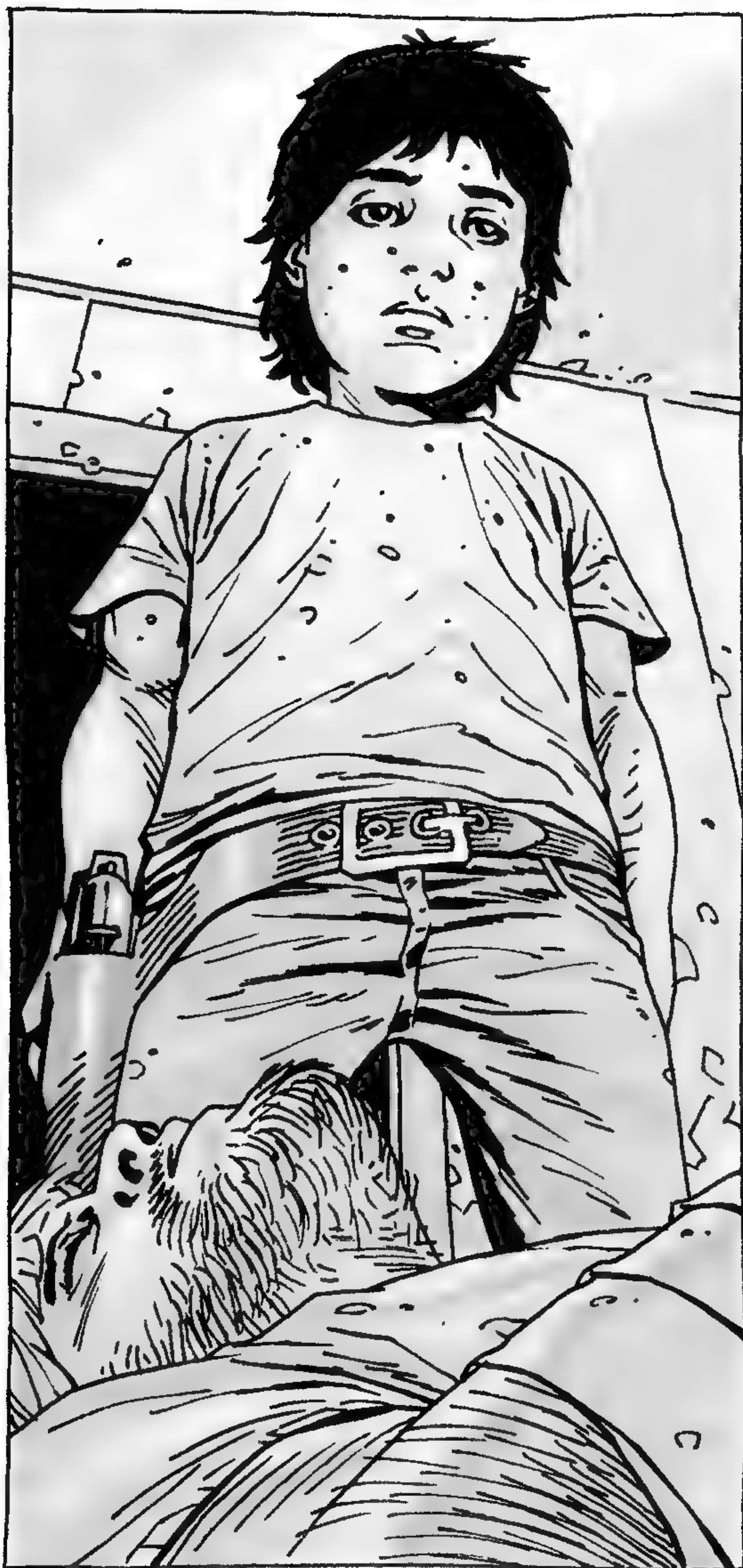


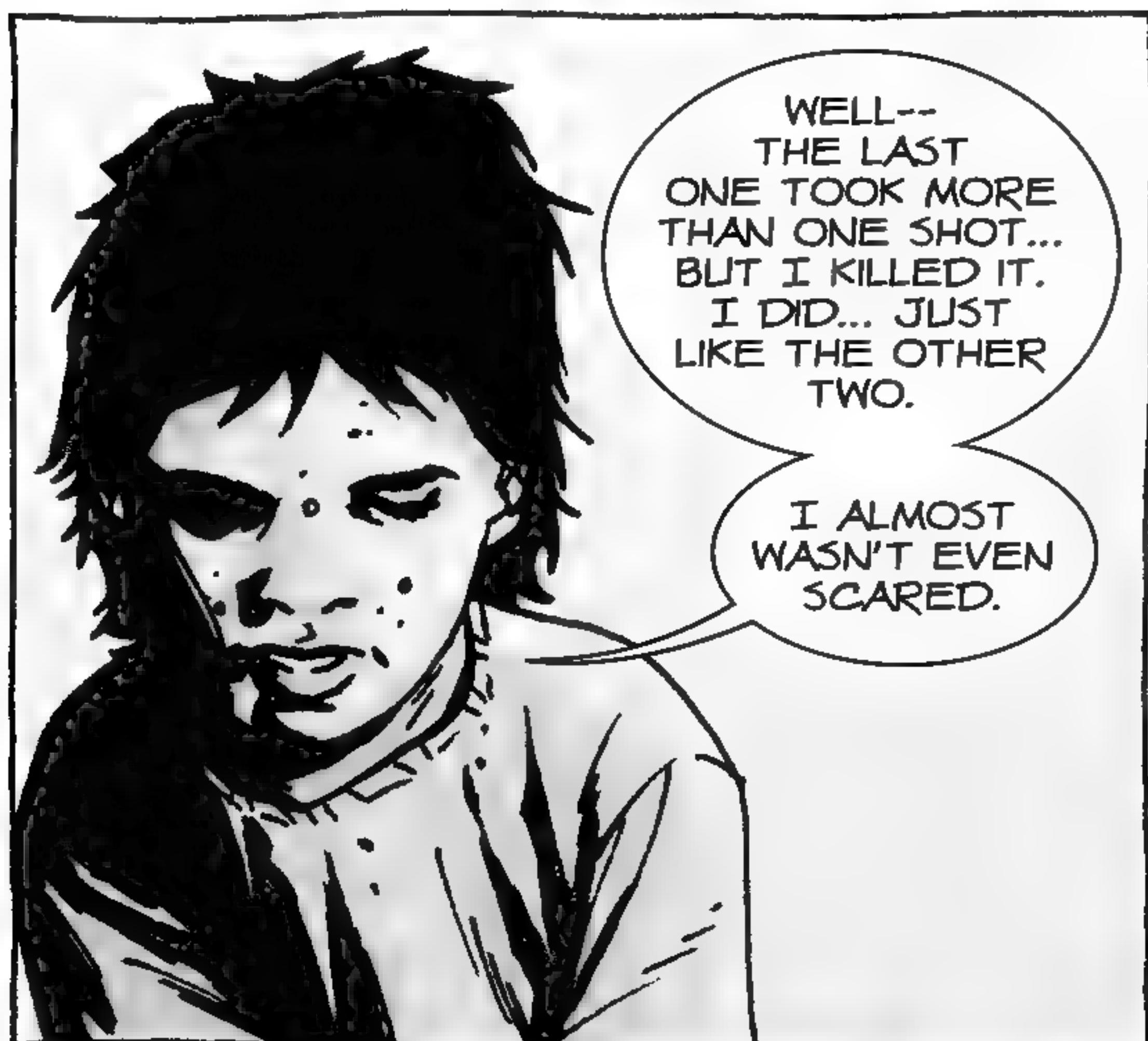
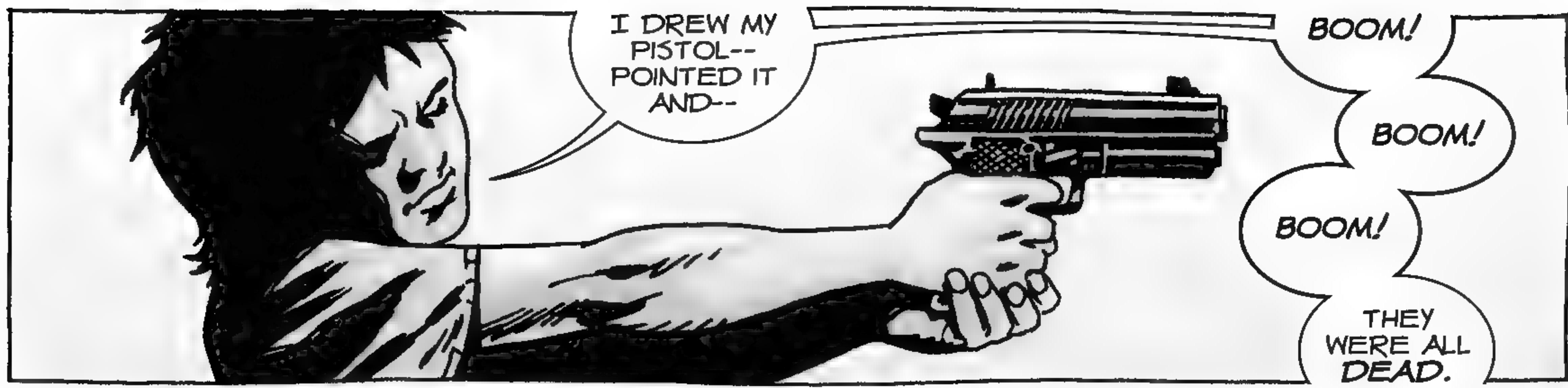




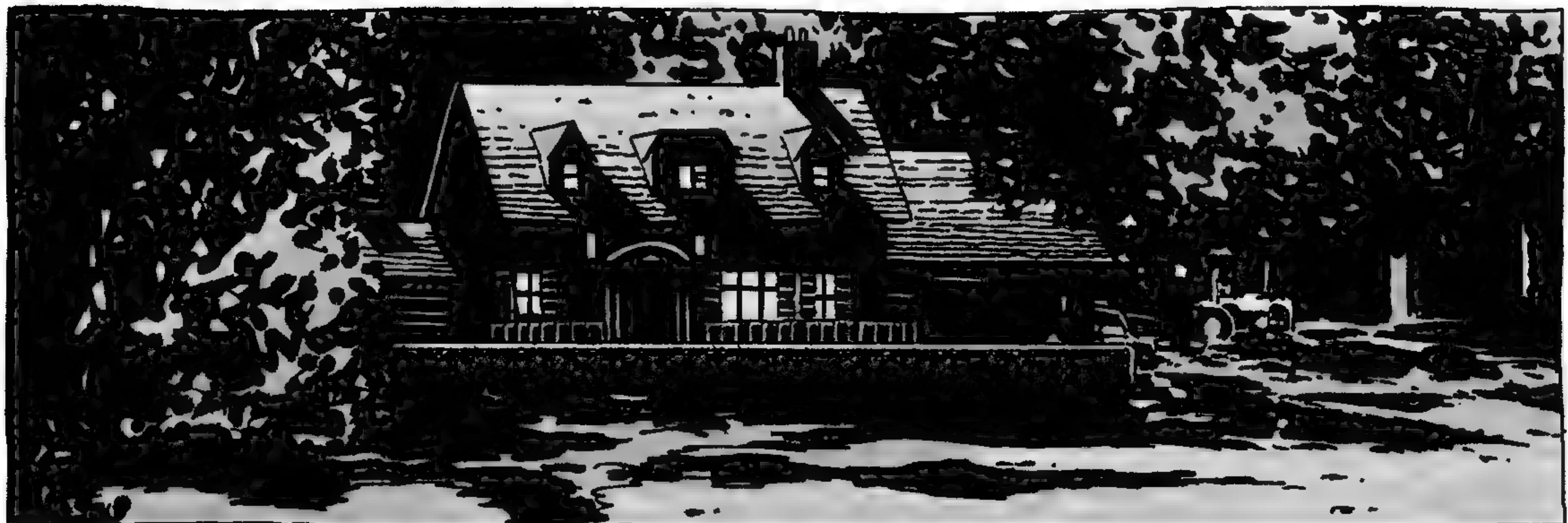












GRUHUGGGH.









SO
SCARED.

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@FUNKOTRON.COM

Well, here's issue 50, all over again.

It's crazy that we're making plans for issue 100 AS I TYPE THIS... guess that means sales stayed strong all these years.

Retroactive congrats to the guys,

Sina Grace

Okay, kids... that's issue 50. Issue 50. Fifty. Fif-ty. Half-way to issue one hundred.

Fifty damn issues.

Fifty.

I don't know, I'm a little awestruck to be honest. I'm not going to say I never thought we'd make it this far, because honestly, after the sales jump between issues 6 and 7 I kinda knew we'd be around for a good long while.

As for a little update on the strength of this book... this is by far the highest selling issue of the series, which is way cool and means we're pretty strong. That said, we got an unrealistic bump in sales for this issue because of our first ever variant cover by Erik Larsen and Ryan Ottley. So this issue really shouldn't count. But I've already got sales figures for issues 51 and 52 and I'm glad to report that issue 51 sold better than 49 and issue 52 is our highest selling issue yet, not counting issue 50.

So yeah, sales are still going up, little by little, every month. Even now.

Which I don't say to brag, I really don't. A lot of you weren't around in the early days of this series. Early on I would report on how the book was doing as a way of reassuring readers that the book wasn't going to get cancelled at any point in the near future. I know what it's like trying new books. Even if you love something and it's a great book--things don't catch on sometimes. It gets old after a while trying new things only to have the cancelled just when they start to get good.

It's frustrating.

That's why I let people know, this book is doing well, sales are strong... better than ever.

And y'know, I don't think I'll ever be able to accurately convey just how thankful I am to each and every one of you for making this possible. I mean, I wouldn't be here if it weren't for you guys. All of you. I wish I could fly to all your houses and give you hugs. This book is a huge deal for me. I'm so grateful that you guys and gals enjoy it.

And I'm enjoying it, too. I love working on this series. I plan on sticking with this book for years and years. And a huge part of that is the people I get to work with. Charlie Adlard, Cliff Rathburn and Rus Wootton make this book an absolute joy to work on.

Charlie, Cliff and Rus know how much I love them, so I'm not going to bore anyone with lengthy thank yous. Instead, I'm going to dive right into the mail. I don't think this is the longest letters column ever (although it might be) but it's certainly the longest I've done recently.

So here we go!

Dear Cap'n Kirkman,

I had no idea you had a beard! Or blonde hair. That is you on the toilet in that ad, right? I must say that this issue was a bit more exciting than recently: if you don't get my mails regularly that's cause I don't get your issues on any kind of regular basis (it is Image Comics, ya know). I sense the big cliffhanger to mean someone's turning traitor? What else did I wanna say...? Oh yeah: This was much more readable than that best-selling ultra-hyped Dark Tower: The Long Road Home bunch of...stuff. Can't wait for the new status quo.

Sincerely,
Andrew J. Shaw

Yes, that is me. I have blonde hair and a beard--although I will say I'm probably a slight bit chubbier than I appear in that drawing... sadly.

Dear Kirkman,
N'ce. I just finished issue 47 and the letter column. I am on pins and needles (not necessarily in that order) to see who is holding the gun to

Lori? My money is on Michonne. I think that will be a good little twist. I mean, we all know she is crazy but we don't know what kind of crazy yet, do we? I think her motive would be Rick having let Tyreese die. The only flaw is how did she get back in the prison THAT fast without anybody knowing?

If it is Michonne, Thank God you waited til Back History month was over. (That's sarcasm)

Groan.

But back to 47. I wrote a while back and asked- thinking out loud- if the Governor would be irritated and/or crazy enough to compromise the fences. He is. I think it is very consistent with him; he is a cut-off-your-nose-to-spit-your-face kinda guy. Or Michonne could cut it off for him.

I like books where people who you like (the "heroes") die. There will always be more people to like, right? I think we are at the point where- if not Rick- Rick's team dies. I think in a zombie/apocalyptic situation a lot of good people would die unfairly or not is really just a judgment call

One last thing, a little business.

If your readership starts to dwindle then you should let us readers know. Then we can decide if it would be worth buying two copies and giving one away. That would have to reverse the cycle. First, I plunk down, what?, 6 bucks to get the comic I actually look forward to and your sales tick up. Then the person I give it to will, most likely, enjoy it and then a) start buying the series on a monthly basis; and then hopefully b) start buying the trades and further lining your pockets; which leads to c) we, who have been along for the ride from the beginning, get more Walking Dead.

Luckily, sales aren't dropping, and even if they did... our trade paperback sales are so high, we could sustain a pretty healthy drop without batting an eye. That said, there's no reason you can't

start buying two copies of each issue NOW. This book will never be selling TOO MUCH, so please, by all means, starting buying as many copies as you can in order to spread the word. I'd really appreciate it.

Just promise that you won't forget 'us'. Let's be honest, 'them' we could probably do without anyways, right?

Regards
Dawson

PS. I know that it is hard to believe but they actually rejected me from taking Alan Greenspan's position when he bailed. Now who's laughing?

Not me.

Mr. Kirkman,

I've been reading comics for many years but up until I picked up The Walking Dead I was never impressed enough to actually write in about them. Congratulations sir you are my first letter (and will completely flip out and frame the issue if said letter is printed just because I'm a nerd like that haha)

Better go buy a frame!

Truth be told I was really getting bored with comic books and about to stop buying them all together. That changed when I went into the comic shop and my eyes fell onto TWD volume 1. The whole cover with just the right amount of color along with the black and white drawing with awesome artwork caught my eye a most immediately (not to mention it had zombies!). My first words were "whoa, what is this?" The comic shop owner went "Awesome series man, you've got to try it out!" Keep in mind I was about to call it quits on comic books so I was skeptical but decided to take the gamble, handed over the 10 bucks and went on my way. On my way home I decided to thumb through the book and I was hooked immediately. As soon as the train stopped I turned around and took another 30 minute ride back into downtown Chicago and bought a few other Walking Dead issues I could find.

The whole series is just a masterpiece in my eyes. The language and color reflect the world perfectly and you've shown that you're not afraid to put some lumps (or bite marks) on the main characters

You say "no one lives forever in this series" but you write it so well that we feel like we know the characters and understand them and then our jaw drops when one of them gets done in. I know that when Tyreese got killed I was totally shocked and then was like WHY ROBERT WHY??? WE JUST LOST TYRESE! when Axel went down. Those 2 were my favorites of the gang honestly. I just hope you spare Hershel at least for awhile longer, though I suspect with how things are going he's going to meet some untimely demise sooner rather than later. With that being said I think you can tell I think your book is AMAZING. It's rare to find a book with good art, a solid story, and the ability to get you to care about the characters but you pull it off flawlessly

Ok, whew. I've gotten that off my chest and have a few questions that you hopefully have time to answer

1) Are there any plans to have what's left of the gang meet up with some new people? I know a lot of readers are asking about Duane and Morgan but I'd be content with anyone since the current crew is getting knocked off pretty regularly.

There will always be new characters coming into the fold in this series from time to time... just go online and look at the cover for issue 53. There's more on the way very soon.

2) Are there any plans for some other random Walking Dead goodness? I found a shirt at the comic shop and seen the poster on the back of issue, was just wondering if there were any plans for other stuff such as action figures, etc. I'd happily put more of my money into your pocket for more stuff to put around my room.

If you go online to www.csмоorestudio.com you can see the loads of The Walking Dead busts and statues that sculptor extraordinaire Clayburn Moore is producing. They're totally awesome. There should be more things on the horizon as well.

That's about it. My apologies if this letter was too long or seemed to ramble (first time writer remember) but I thank you for taking the time to read it. Keep up the good work sir, and remember you have a reader for as long as the series lasts!

Respectfully yours,
Fred S.

We're on track for forever right now. Keep those fingers crossed.

I love the book. You are the professional writer here, but I have a scene idea that I've always thought would be good for a zombie movie or this comic. Sorry if you get these ALL the time.

Sigh.

Because society is shut down and everyone is hiding, there is no one to maintain the grass/weeds. The grass and weeds will grow tall.

This has been shown a few times in the book. We're on it.

Our survivors come to a park/play ground or a field full of tall grass. No zombies in site. They start to venture through the field. Someone makes a loud noise of some kind. 20-30 zombies that were lying in the field sit up at the same time. The survivors are now surrounded because they were careless. A sense of ease instantly turns into fright.

I'm sure we'll have a tall grass zombie at some point in the series.

Anyway, I thought I would through it out there because I'll never make a movie or write a comic book, but I would like to see it.

Thanks for reading. I'll do the same on a monthly basis.

Mike Gineman

Really? That's it... no questions? No comments? I shouldn't even print this letter.

Uncle! All right! All right Kirkman. Let me up. Look at all this dr. Man, you're ruffess. There are no working washing machines anymore remember? You made your point. It took Tyreese's death, but I'm finally convinced. Nobody is safe. Oh look, there goes Michonne! That woman is crazy. She is always muttering to herself, and disappearing to play Lone Ranger. I know you that evil smile of yours. She's going to join him soon. Isn't she? Hey! Talk to me. C'mon, you can't do that. Oh, Yes you can. But we don't know anything about her past. Now that I think about it, we don't know anything about anyone's past here beyond Rick and Lori. What's that? Not Andrea. You're not turning her into Zombie chow. I'll tell her and she's gonna shoot your ass and George Romero's ass too! What's that? Put up your dukes, pal. Those are fighting words and this time I'm going to kick your ass!

Victor Rosario
San Juan

Michonne is still alive out there somewhere--although, when we'll see her next is anyone's guess.

Dear Mr. Kirkman

Let me just tell you what a fantastic ride this has been with The Walking Dead. I've collected comics for years and have never needed the kind of "fix" that I need each time I finish another issue of this amazing book. I love the realism of the characters, and the idea that no one is safe. This has a true sense of what an apocalyptic occurrence such as zombies inheriting the earth might be like. The true horror is not entirely the zombies, but in the true nature of people, and what they are capable of doing in the name of survival

I've been around from the beginning issue of The Walking Dead and felt compelled to write this time (issue 47) because this is the first time I feel emotionally drained from reading comics. Dude, I am on the edge of my seat on every single panel of this issue, and last issue with Tyreese, WTF. LOL.

I also want to apologize to Mr. Charlie Adlard. When he took over for Tony Moore way back when I was not originally happy with that, but Charlie, you rock. Your art with Robert's writing makes this a very solid book, and I'm glad your on board.

I do have one question for you. Is there any plans for spin-offs away from the current storyline (like in another part of the world), I think I read somewhere that you had said there isn't, but just wanted to make sure.

Anyway, keep up the good work. I'm a fan for life

Sincerely,
Jason Thomason

Yeah, I'm pretty against spin-offs in general. For Invincible (my superhero book) that title has more characters than this one, believe it or not, and as a superhero title I think it's cool to have spin-offs, it works with the genre better. For this book, I kind of like the idea of people only needing to have issues 1 through 150 to have the whole story. There's no need to remember that a mini-series that's out there takes place between issues 45 and 46... it's all just one continuing story. I like it simple... I think it's better that way.

Kirkman,

Yes, another great issue with a nail-biting cliffhanger. It shocked me the Guy would ram the fence.

1. Wouldn't he want to take over the prison intact?

Yes, but he decided that he wasn't going to GET the prison without tearing down part of the fence and in that moment he supposed it could be fixed later. He was a bit crazy, don't know if you noticed.

2. You stated in your letter column: "I've considered the gay couple thing..."
a. Are you referring to yourself in a gay relationship?

I was referring to the book, I'm sure, I've considered putting a gay couple in the series. I was actually going to make Martinez gay, until I remembered that I was planning to have Rick beat him to death--then I thought, probably not the best thing to do with your first prominent gay character. There will be more gay characters eventually... not just Dexter and Andrew.

b. How would you explain your boyfriend to your child once they were old enough to damn you to hell?

You're joking right?

Axel got dead. Damn it! I was looking forward to some character development, you follow me? So far that makes two characters who've died after sex. You sick bastard.

It's just like Friday the 13th!

I'm glad Michonne didn't die. I just realized after typing this that you'll kill her now. Let me see, who will she have sex with before you kill her? Prediction: She'll have a threesome with Andrea and Dale and then take a dirt nap

Oh crap--now I've got to rewrite this.

I want you to kill the Guy so bad, but that means keeping him around will make for some great stories

Well, too late for that.

3. Do you have plans to have some characters experiment sexually (gay or bisexual)?

Carol would have done it in a minute if Lori had been up for it. There will be more of this type of thing eventually... or rather some of this type of thing... because there hasn't been much of any yet.

It would make sense for a new character or even some of the existing ones to sexually experiment. These are dire times, base instincts are a huge driving force.

I don't care what others say of TWD this title is not stale or treading water at all. Shit is always hitting the fan or about to hit the fan and spray everyone.

Sophea Luk
Salem, OR

P.S. Yes, Luk is my full last name. Cambodian in the house!

Yay! Thanks for the kind words, Sophea.

Dear Kirkman,

You weren't kidding... no one is safe.

But why is it so hard for our beloved cast to kill the Governor? At least his fat henchman finally bought it. I actually cheered when it happened! I couldn't stand that character. Such a kss-ass.

Poor Axel... I really liked him. I was happy for him when he finally got some tail. I also was hoping he would survive this ordeal so we could see him try to adjust to life outside the jail. Oh well.

I was very sorry to see Axel go as well... but that's life.

And please get rid of Lori. I really liked her at first but now she's just getting annoying. Have Rick raise the baby by himself. Well, with the help of Carl since he's missing a hand and all. That could make for some interesting stories. At the speed things are developing though, the baby would start walking around issue 500!

Can't wait to read the next issue and see what will happen to everybody

Rochelle Lancourt

Heh, I assume you've read 48 by now.

Dear greatest writer in the world or multi verse

Rick has no right hand

chain saws look good on right hands

Will you ever put a chain saw on Rock right hand?

or some thing of that matter?

Or if you ever do can he say "Groovy"?

Chris hanley
Chicago, IL

This has not gotten old yet. Not even remotely.

I am lying.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

Let me just start off by saying that you are an evil bastard! The end of Walking Dead #47 had me literally yelling "NO! DAMMIT, NO!" That has got to be the WORST cliff-hanger I've ever read. You've got this really intense, action-packed issue, the shit's seriously hitting the fan, and then you end it with Lori at gunpoint? AND THEN YOU DON'T SHOW WHO IT IS?! GAH!

...Why must you be so awesome?

I've got a family to support.

Your loyal, disgruntled fan,
David Baldwin

P.S. I hear you're coming to Emerald City Comic-Con in Seattle this year. Lookin forward to it.

I had a blast at the Emerald City Comic-con--it's a great show. I highly recommend it. I hope to see you all there next year!

Mr Prolific,

So I picked up the 3rd hard cover of TWD having enjoyed the 1st 2 - I'm not a horror or zombie enthusiast but appreciate great storytelling (not just YOU, Adlard, Rathburn, Wooton too right?) I couldn't wait any longer for what happened next so I bought issues 37-47 & now I'm up to date in what's been released & I've got some food for your thought.

Firstly, I will continue buying the individual issues - maybe as well as the HC's if I can afford to. So now I'm reading (& paying for) Astounding Wolf-man, Brit, Invincible & Ultimate X-men. Am I missing anything?

Marvel Zombies when it's coming out... and there's old trades like Capes and Tech Jacket that you should check out--but yeah, for the most part, I think you've got it all covered. Be on the lookout for Destroyer and Killraven from Marvel and myself in the future. And thanks for buying everything. You rock.

Secondly: how are you so prolific? I'd appreciate any insight into how you write - usually well - on a variety of subjects without all the books failing regularly behind schedule.

Some would argue that I am regularly behind schedule... and I am, a little. But y'know, I write an issue and some change every week... and the change ends up being an extra script or two a month, so I write about 5 or 6 books a month... no big deal, right?

Thirdly, I'm finding a couple of recent events puzzling. Why didn't Michonne just kill the governor (deliberately small 'g' as you have successfully created a character I have no respect for) having snuck up on him with an automatic weapon? Given their history I expected her to take the opportunity. I find it hard to believe she'd not kill him just to get her sword back. Then Andrea misses Philip sniping? Not quite as accurate because of her injury? (see how I'm providing excuses for you? I'd appreciate your thinking though :)) You've proven adept at killing important characters - I was surprised, horrified by how and sad to see Tyreese go but then for the governor to keep surviving... you better have a HORRIBLE resolution for him in 48. Also, where are the biters in this denouement? Surely a few must have avoided being shot in the head and be trying to eat the Woodbury invaders/prison defenders, especially now the fences are down? Anyway, that's a small amount of questions for the 23 consecutive TWD I've stayed up too late to read.

Okay, Michonne didn't kill Gov right away because she knew she wouldn't make it out of that group alive if she just fired--they would have turned on her and shot her down--so she was going to take the Governor hostage and kill him later--but that went to hell too.

Andrea missed because no one is perfect. She hit him in the chest, from the tower--that's pretty damn close. A head shot would have been difficult at that distance for her--she's not a trained sniper... and she was injured.

Fourthly, Andrew J. Shaw. He shows up a lot. Is this a contractual obligation? Sorry if you explained this before I've only been reading Letter Hacks since issue 37.

He writes bizarre letters that entertain me. It's pretty easy to get printed if you do that.

Finally, right now I'm not Andrea best, DON'T kill her.

**Theodore Crush
Devon**

Andrea's fate remains to be seen... so no promises, but I will say that we do find out, one way or the other, very soon.

P.S. You're reading XXXombies right?

I haven't read all the issues yet, but I started it.

Hey KirkMan,

I've been meaning to write you to let you know what sort of reaction the current arc has wrought.

With the first red label "No One Is Safe" issue in hand, and especially after the double cliffhanger, I literally could not bring myself to read it. You had me so fired up with dread that I felt as if my not reading the book could save the cast from their fate. Never had that feeling before, only to have it resurface with the series finale of The Wire, so I thank you for that.

What I finally read was far messier and more darkly comic than I had anticipated. You did an excellent job of subverting and ultimately amplifying the threat of the Governor's crew by showing how raw they were. I couldn't help but laugh as he kept ducking behind the tank - for me, shades of Spanky shielding himself from spitballs in the "Friends, Romans, Countrymen..." bit in The Little Rascals

How old are you?

The net effect was best illustrated in Tyreese's beheading, where you don't allow the reader or the survivors the benefit of a clean slice. Reality is full of gristle and tendons and that's the sort of horror you've best captured so far.

Looking forward to not wanting to read the ending. A quick prediction... does the bit of parka on the cover suggest that it's Michonne that has Lori and the baby at gunpoint?

It was supposed to... and it was supposed to be misleading.

In other news, at the end of Marvel Zombies 2, you said something to the effect of hoping the readers enjoyed it as much as the original. While the story had a number of great premises, it didn't gel for me as a complete story. I feel like it could have been "Dawn" to MZ1's "Night" if it had been paced out a little differently. The meat for me was the Redeemed Zombie Heroes vs. Cortez' Coup. If the Civil War part had been 2 issues and you dropped the redundant and plot-convenient Hulk fight, the intrigue of Zombie Gulf vs. Survivor Rage could have had the room to breathe. As it stands, the "Bwa Ha Ha!" "to be continued...?" ending will forever damn the book to sequel status without allowing it to live on its own merits. Just a thought.

Well, the first book ended with a "To be continued...?" also. I was just trying to keep in line with the first. Your opinions are heard loud and clear. Thanks for sharing.

Would you have paced it differently now that it's all said and done?

Thanks and Cheers,
Michael

Probably not. I like the Hulk fight. I like the way it ended... I don't think I would have changed much of anything. I'm pretty proud of Marvel Zombies 2.

Dear Mr. Kirkman.
I have never written a letter to a comic before, but with recent events in my life, I've felt compelled to. A week ago, I was diagnosed with bladder cancer and had a tumor removed. Being a healthy 40 year old male, this has shocked and humbled me on many levels. I just want to thank you for The Walking Dead series. The terrific artistry and spectacular writing have allowed me to escape my health concerns. Like Rick states in issue #47, "Just get down and let's fight back! We can get through this!" This is what I plan on doing: Fighting back and beating cancer. I hope Rick continues to be a central figure in the comic. He exemplifies the human spirit and its fighting nature. I would be saddened to see him leave the series but look forward to the current arc ending and the many changes it will bring. Thank you for giving me that monthly escape, and I look forward to reading this title for many years to come.

After reading this issue, I think you'll see that Rick isn't going anywhere just yet. He's been through a lot—but it's only making him stronger. Best of luck to you in your upcoming fight. Please keep me posted on your success.

Your Fan
Kevin J Zahnich

P.S. I just bought the hardback copy of Marvel Zombies. I can't wait to open its pages and enter a new Kirkman world. Keep up the great work!

I hope you enjoy it.

Hyia!

Dear Crew...

You killed Tyreese and it's just... ok. It's your story, it's your world. Even with all heroes dead (but still walking) this will be one of best comic EVER. Still... It's a shame Tyreese died slowly, painfully, and without dignity from hands (uh, hand) of such a degenerate jerk

That's just so cruel. Awwwww, so cruel. MAAAAAAAAN, SO CRUEL!!!!

It seems nobody needs zombies anymore. People were, are, and will always be each other greatest foes. :o)

Take care.
-Rahn

P.S. Who's this? Whose boots are these? Michonne?

P.S.S. Please reconsider rule "one hero dies every episode". Pleeeeeeeeease

There was never a "one hero dies every episode" rule. That said, heroes are safe in this series for a little while at least. We haven't had a death in two issues and counting.

Dear Robert Kirkman,

If you don't mind I would like to ask you some questions, I'm very curious about the walking dead. I have looked all over for a better comic on zombies, and nothing has come close to your delightfully grim yet highly addictive series. Anyways the questions...

1. Who is more like a pirate? Philip with his eye patch or Dale with his peg leg?

Peg Leg beats Eye Patch.

2. Are we going to see zombie animals or are you following Max Brooks' rule on that zombies can only be human

That's a Romero rule, right? Either way I follow it.

3. Do you ever put little "Easter eggs" inside issues, such as putting zombie celebrities or adding quotes from movies?

Burt Reynolds' mustache appears in every issue.

4. Are we ever going to see walking dead pals... or have you made them and I just couldn't find them?

I don't know what you're even talking about.

5. I'm guessing the outbreak in the story is not a virus (I award you 30 exp. for originality) any hints to what it is. I know in the past you've said you're not releasing that information anytime soon, but I figured I'd ask anyways

I'm not telling.

For now that's all. I would like to say thank you for making a wonderful comic that is just as fun to read a second time... and many more times after that. Also thanks for keeping the price minimal and not putting any of those annoying ads in between pages

Can't wait for the next 50 issues
Michael Olvera

P.S. know that because of the extremely... cliff hanger ending in issue 47 I've attempted to freeze myself and then have my friend thaw and revive me when 48 comes out.

How'd that work out for you?

Hi Mr Kirkman.

I have been an avid reader of "Walking Dead" from issue 1, I have loved every twist and turn of the plots even the ones that really "piss you off!!!". The reason for my letter is just to say you are really hitting the mark every month, and I just wanted to say it is like watching your favorite zombie DVD, getting to the end titles and reaching for your remote to stop and eject, only to see the screen turn back and the film starts up again! Every horror fan always wanted to see the "what next" and now we have it in spades!!!!!! keep up the good work on Brit and The Astound ng Wolf-Man too

Russell Wakefield

Thanks. That credits rolling and then the movie starting up again is a good way of thinking about it--I think I'm going to steal that.

Mr. Kirkman

Thank you for 50 issues of excitement, fun, thrills and controversy. I really enjoy WD from cover to letter hacks, heck, I even enjoy the ads, because I know these may be books I would also enjoy (you made me buy Sea of Red among others, great book btw.). I hope TWD will go on many other 50 issues, so it will continue to be one of the first books I read every month.

That's the plan.

Oh, and I'm very excited, if aliens will show up in #75 for real!

Keep up the good work (and make Marvel Zombies an ongoing)!

-Andreas Guenster

It's funny that we're so close to issue 75 now. I mean, when I made that joke in the early issues, that I would run out of ideas and put aliens in the book in issue 75... I didn't really know if we'd make it to issue 75, and if we did... it seemed like it would be so far off. Now it's just two years away--crazy.

better start coming up with some alien races.

Hello Robert Kirkman.

Question: What is Robert Kirkman's favorite type of candy?

I'm not really into candy all that much. Can't say I have a favorite. Candy bars and stuff are all equally delicious, but I'm not one to seek them out very often.

First I want to say I enjoy The Walking Dead very much. Whenever it comes out, it is a ways the first book I read. But I have a few complaints for you. In 2007 I stopped buying the book and sold all of my back issues. The only reason for this is the terrible release schedule. It is ruining the book for me, so much that I can't see myself going to the comic shop to purchase it anymore.

Cry me a river. We've got a better shipping schedule that about 50% of the comics out there. You're getting issue 50 at least four months shy of our fifth anniversary. The schedule isn't that bad. I really don't see what we're being compared to. Find another writer/artist team that have done as many issues as Charlie and I in the same amount of time. I can think of maybe TWO. Our schedule isn't perfect... but it's really not THAT bad.

It always seems to be the first thing people talk about when a new issue comes out. The Walking Dead is becoming known for being ridiculously late. I'm not looking for any excuses or reasons here. I know it's more than most indie books, and this is image, not DC or Marvel. I'm just letting you know that, for me, the schedule is really hurting my enjoyment of the series.

I'm not sure if it's bad writing, bad art, the 2-3 month breaks in between some issues, or just a combination of all of that... but even up to the current issue I have a very difficult time recognizing/remembering some of these characters. And I know I'm not the only one having this problem, I have heard quite a few people complaining about this. For a book that focuses so much on the characters, I don't understand how this can be a problem so far along in the series.

It's not a problem for most, thankfully.

That's all for now. I'll still keep on reading no matter what, I'll even be here when the aliens arrive in 75. and they had better!

-JordanM85

Answer: Tyreese's Pieces.

Oh, you were being funny up there... and I went and actually answered the question.

So you're still reading then? That's cool. After issue 48, you shouldn't have much trouble telling the characters apart. So you should be okay. And you know, despite me feeling that our schedule isn't all that bad, I really would like to get the book out 12 times a year... it's something I'm working toward. We'll see.

Dear Mr. Kirkman and Associates,

I have been reading your book since around Issue 3 or so. I just finished reading issues 46 and 47. Just some background on me. I'm a black man from Jamaica who recently became a US Citizen. Hooray, me! As you might imagine, Tyreese's death shocked me as it did most of your other readers I'm sure. I didn't respond to the whole Michonne rape thing, basically because bad things happen to most of your characters. I didn't see Michonne's rape as being any more horrible than Rick getting his forced amputation. However, Tyreese's death wasn't even a one or two panel death. You had to show multiple panels of the Governor hacking away! Honestly, seeing a character who has been present that long die in such a gruesome manner had a huge emotional impact. I guess that's a compliment to both your writing and your artistic team. I don't know if you know this, but it's pretty much a stereotype that the first people to die in the horror flicks are the black characters and the people having sex. Lo and behold, guess who the next two characters to die are? The black guy Tyreese, and Axel who just had some nookie that same issue.

Well, the Axel sex thing was because I wanted that character to appear to have some kind of relationship forming so his death would be all the more tragic--but maybe that's why the sex/death cliché exists.

As a minority, I don't see too many characters who look like me in comic books. So at first, I got truly pissed when Tyreese bought the farm. After a while though, I actually saw that apart from Rick, there aren't too many other characters whose death would make that great of an emotional impact. You did kind of fall into horror genre cliché, but I see now that Tyreese really was doomed from the arc began. There are numerous white characters who fall into gruesome fates throughout the series, so I really shouldn't expect any person whatsoever to escape harm. I'm glad that you actually wrote some believable black characters in the series, and I expect that the victims of this arc, and especially Tyreese, will have their deaths impact the survivors for quite some time. Tyreese was probably the closest thing to a brother that Rick had, so I look forward to seeing the impact on him.

Thanks for being so damn reasonable. Also, please take note that Tyreese is far from the last black character that will be introduced into the book. There's plenty more issues yet to come.

Closing thoughts, I can tell that Rick was freaked out in #47 when his son expressed such a grim viewpoint. I think the effects of their reality on the children really evaded Rick. Lori mentioned it a few times, but I don't think he understood what might happen. Kudos to you for starting down that road. I think the mental effects of following generations are something that we as readers don't think about often. BTW, how come there aren't more pregnant women? I guess the prison might have had condoms, but no-one brings up choosing not to have kids! How about seeing a conversation or two on this matter?

My only remaining real anger about this whole arc is the knowledge that the governor won't be able to suffer as much as the survivors have because of him, or how much they will have to deal with in their emotions in the aftermath. I would literally like to see him get tortured again, but for 2 or 3 issues perhaps. Of course, I'm sure some of the characters feel the same way. Michonne still doesn't know what happened to Tyreese, so I await her reaction. I'm also waiting to see how our crew deals with the members of the Governor's followers who are still alive. Some of them to live freely, but I'm sure some were intimidated or misled into following his orders. Kill them all, or will they try and integrate some of them to bolster their ranks?

The Governor's death was probably pretty painless--and he certainly didn't suffer as much as most have due to his actions... and that's unfair, but you know, that's life.

I will continue to read your great book for as long as you keep up the great writing. By the way, I live in Atlanta, and we do have a sizeable Hispanic as well as a not insubstantial Asian contingent. In the idea of racial equality, I look forward to seeing some of them bite in the dust in a horrific manner! Keep up the good work!

Natalie Embden

Hey, Martinez was beaten to death after being hit by an RV. That counts right?

Yo Mr. Kirkman

I just read the first 7 volumes of the walking dead, and HOLY CRAP!! At first, I thought it would just be like some of the other zombie movies out there. But man was I wrong. After catching up and reading all the rest of the issues, I'm happy to see Rick still kicking and Lori still taking care of the baby. But I saw what you called this latest issue arc, and I'm bracing myself for someone major to die off, maybe Rick, maybe even Lori!! Seeing Tyreese go down like a bad guy in kill bill getting his head sliced was pretty cool. I just got a few quick questions.

1) Any chance we'll see the main characters get to another country? Maybe an Airport? That would be KICK ASS. Do you survive, where would you go, where would you land? What country would you know is safe?

Not a very big chance they'll make it to another country unless it's Canada or Mexico. There probably aren't a lot of pilots sitting around. We'll see.

2) Will we see how the government collapsed? Will we see a flashback to how the outbreak all began? What if the survivors found a news van or some TV station that has some kind of recording that makes them question their status, or if they should continue on as they have?

It doesn't interest me, for the time being, to go back and show that early stuff. I may change my mind eventually.

3) Would you be willing to have someone do action figures/models of main characters of the series. I could see a MICHONNE figure selling like crazy, maybe a Rick and an Andrea or Glenn or Hershel. All of them would be cool figures to collect. think about it.

Todd McFarlane is thinking about it...

As always, Keep up the great work, man. We all know you got a lot of other stuff, with Ultimate X Men and all (My other favorite of yours) but don't kill THE WALKING DEAD, it's a great book with great art, and you have some gripping stuff in it.

Can't wait to see issue 48, and i hope we see this book go to issue 100!!!

Charles Fuchsel

You and me both, Charles. Although I did leave Ultimate X-Men recently, I can assure you that I don't plan on ever quitting The Walking Dead. I'd like to do 1000 issues.

Kirkman--

Awful. Awful stuff.

That's not a criticism, just saying, you really blew the roof off of the good thing our guys had going...

I just put it down and I'm reeling; I didn't expect quite so stark a break between where we've been and where we're headed. And frankly I'm scared for Rick and Carl. That makes me kind of a pussy, doesn't it? I mean, it's just a comic.

It kind of does, yeah.

Been meaning to write in regards to a couple of things.

I was crushed to see Tyreese killed, especially at the hands of the Governor. I thought this was going to be a comic about seasonal crops and yearly harvests at the prison. What's going on??

How much fun would THAT have been?

And I want to congratulate you on having persevered long enough in the meat opera to now be seeding influence on your peers; where at first you were plagued with uninformed questions about this title's opening (way back when) and its resemblance to 28 Days Later, now let the letters start rolling in on how much like TWD Romero's own Diary of the Dead seemed. Guys in an RV episodically going from one location to the next... If only Romero had a monthly letter column where you could send endless letters under your many pseudonyms and noms de lettercol asking why he had to bite your style and couldn't come up with a story of his own. If you still haven't seen it yet (and to all of those who have) I have only this to say, "Hi. My name is Samuel."

Don't blame me for that movie!

No need to defend Romero's process -- I'm just funnin'.

I still love the man but Diary was not a good movie.

But really, man, you're a bastard with Lori and the baby. Talk about a double-switcheroo with the cover of the last issue -- Lori and the baby in imminent peril -- which I knew was going to be an unrealized threat and then bringing it around to come to pass anyway... Crushing.

Please, alien invaders, come soon and take me -- I mean, Rick and Carl! -- from all this death and horror...

Andrew Garcia-Price

Countdown to aliens, 25 issues.

Dear Kirkman,

What, no letter printed? I'll blame it on Scott Spencer's 4-peat (four letters in a row). Hmm, more like The Running Dead this issue, huh? It was kind of exciting--the best issue of this I've read for ages. I actually liked the Guv'nor getting his brains blown out and stuff. So Rick's wife bought it, right? What about the baby...? Again, quite exciting; loads better than the other comic I read today: that Stephen King Horst Shut...boy is that a waste of time, eh?

Andrew J. Shaw

Thanks for explaining what you meant by "4-peat" I was a bit lost there. You're at two letters and counting now--so that's good. You should be happy. I'm glad you liked issue 48.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

You, Sir, are very good, the cliffhanger at the end of #47. I thought Lori was sure to die. Then in the beginning of #48 it's Alice trying to fool The Governor and his lackeys. I didn't know who was going to die. Only to kill Lori and Judy a couple pages later. I did not see that coming. Nor did I think The Governor was going to get what he deserved in this issue. How you come up with some of this Who Knows but it's great. This is the only book that I have to read as soon as I get home. I know you, Charlie and Cliff must get tired of hearing how great this book is, But I must tell you again. THIS IS ONE GREAT BOOK. I cannot wait to see what's in store for the future.

Thanks for your time, Cary Shenk

Yeah, I'll be honest with you, things did change a bit in that arc while I was writing it--originally, Lori and Judy were going to die in 47, but then I moved things around and it got shoved into issue 48. Which, on one hand, made that cool twist with Alice possible, which resulted in the death being more of a surprise, but at the same time, it made it to where most of the deaths in this arc took place in one issue--which wasn't originally the plan.

Robert,

I just read issue 48 and..... is there anyone you're not going to kill? By the way, thanks for signing all those books at A+ Comics.

Patrick Byrne

I draw the line at real people. I would never kill a real person... at least, I don't think I would. I look forward to seeing you again at A+ Comics in Lexington, KY real soon.

Wow.

The "No One is Safe" storyline has been the best thing I've read so far this year, good sirs!! It takes a lot of balls to pretty much kill off the ENTIRE supporting cast. Every month was a crazy, intense ride with these characters and every month it only got better. I can hardly wait to see where the new direction takes us. Keep up the great work you guys!!

Duane Hand

Just wait until you see where we go next.

Kirkman,

Just finished Issue 48. You dick, you made my wife cry.

Greg Wagner

Heh, that's not the first time I've made your wife cry! Oh come on--it was right there. You can hardly blame me, right? Right? C'mon! I'm joking like I've had sex with her... that's funny right? The crying is a little odd, I know... but it happens. It's also an implication that my penis is unusually large, which makes it even funnier, right? And... uh... ISSUE FIFTY! WOO!

Hey

I don't really know what to say. I've been reading comics for 25 years and the walking dead since issue one. Never written a letter to a comic before. Issue 48 was the most disturbing comic I have ever read in my life.

I can't help thinking that Carl saved his father's life. I'm not sure if that's how you intended it in the script but that's how it read on the page.

Is Andrea also dead? If yes, that would surprise me as I always picked her as a real survivor.

Thanks (I think).

George Carbone

Andrea's fate has yet to be revealed, but we will learn very soon, I promise.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

I just read TWD #48. Holy shit! Everything IS different now.

Shocked,
John Kostelný

Well, not really... I'm still writing, Charlie's still drawing, Cliff's still toning and Rus is still lettering... so yeah, the stories on a bit of a different path, but it's nothing crazy. It's just different enough to make things interesting.

Hey Kirkman,

I haven't felt the need to write in since after I read issue 23, but I just read the big one. The BIG ONE. Number 48. I don't think so much has ever happened (or will ever happen) in a single issue. WOW. When you said no one was safe, I wasn't expecting this. Some deaths didn't really faze me, namely Axel and Patricia. Axel, though he's fun, has never had much development, and as readers we've been taught to hate Patricia since she first entered the picture. Some deaths were sad, such as Billy and Herschel. I had hoped they would stick around, since recently Billy has really been fleshed out, and as for Herschel, the guy just deserved a break. The baby/Lori combo wasn't sad--it was devastating and twisted. You have no idea how much hate mail you're going to get for killing a mother and her baby.

So far... not much, really.

I think the final word for this issue is WOW. Usually I read Walking Dead, put it in my collection, and forget about it until next month. This issue, however, will stay with me forever. You have successfully scarred me for life Mr. Kirkman. While I cry myself to sleep, all I can do is hope that Dale, Andrea, and the twins made it out of the ordeal okay.

Thanks from a guy who can't decide whether he hates you or admires your courage in writing something this sick,

Jackson Buckley

Here, let me help you... you admire my courage and think I'm very handsome and smart. Hating me wouldn't be very cool.

Mr. Kirkman-

What can I say? I just finished issue forty-eight (twice) and have to congratulate you. Even though we all knew people were going to die (probably en masse) you still managed to shock with nearly every issue of this last arc. I feel like your story telling prowess only improves as this book goes on. In the nearly three years since I've returned to collecting comics (for which your book is responsible, as I said in the letter you printed previously in #32) Walking Dead is the only one in which I haven't been disappointed at some time.

Even Invincible which I love whole heartedly has annoyed me at times-like now, I feel that the book deserves a much more interesting build-up to #50.

Well screw you! Seriously, though not interesting enough? Maybe. Personally, I think the stuff that comes AFTER issue 50 of Invincible is way cooler than anything before it--but the stuff before had to happen for this stuff to take place... but enough about that book.

Sorry, I digress, perhaps I wouldn't feel a little let down in Invincible's build-up if Walking Dead's hasn't been so amazing. The covers, the deaths, the battle, the emotion, the deaths...I was legitimately saddened and angered when Tyreese was killed, I believe it's rare in the world of comics that readers actually have their emotions significantly altered by the comics they read. I mean did anyone actually care when Captain America was "killed"? But this issue has affected me even more. I mean, I didn't even care about Lori that much as a character, but when she was killed I felt it...I had to pause at the page and absorb it. Great stuff. The same with Hershel, Billy, and Alice, really saddening and powerful.

I'll stop gushing now, you want some numbered questions? I have a few:

You can keep gushing if you want... oh, nevermind.

1) Is the comic going to be a little more like Invincible, in that it's going to have a few different threads that are followed? As it looks now, there are three different characters that need to be followed: Michonne, Dale and the R.V. crew, and Rick and Carl. So...how will that be dealt with?

You'll see as we move forward. I'm not really wanting to change the style the book has had so far... and so far we haven't really had any transitions and subplots like that... so maybe there's your answer right there.

2) Or speaking of that...I loved the mutiny against the governor and the woman Lily--are you going to follow Woodbury folks too, or are we to assume she (and everyone else) was killed during the beautifully done two-pages where their bullets ran out?

I'm not going to say they were all killed in that moment, but it's very unlikely that we'll ever see them again. The prison is dead to me. I've moved on and so have the characters.

Probably a dumb question that will have been answered by the time I would read an answer, but...you hinted in an earlier letters page about the Woodbury "doctor" who repaired the governor, and that he might be back...

He's probably still in Woodbury, pretty much alone, taking care of the Governor's "daughter."

3) Do you feel like you killed some of the characters without explaining enough about them, or too preemptively? I don't mind that they are killed off for the sake of the story, but I wondered if you had regrets. Like, with Axel, because he was awesome. Or...how you can't explore Herschel's strange overt religious tendencies...as you hinted would be built upon...etc...

I think I've done enough with Hershel for readers to fill in the blanks. He lost his wife and used that to strengthen his beliefs. It's all there, really. No need to really dwell on it. I would like to have done more with Axel, as I think I liked him as much as readers did--but I felt it was unrealistic for him to die and I wanted it to just be Rick and Carl who made it out of there. I liked Alice too, and planned on doing more with her--but y'know... I had to kill SOMEONE.

4) You're basically making this all up as you go aren't you? I know that's not totally true, but as it relates to my last question, you must decide to change things on the fly quite a bit, how do you do that and stay consistent with your overall vision for the story?

Well, I will admit that I've done maybe FIVE things since the beginning that were spur of the moment twists I came up with on the fly. And at times they did derail the main story but I felt it was important to do them and be spontaneous. That said, it's only been five or so things, so it hasn't changed my big plan very much at all.

Alright, I just read my questions and they kind of come off like I'm expecting a lecture...but you know, answer what you want.

I thank you for an amazing read every month (or so) with not only Walking Dead, but Invincible and the Wolfman as well.

Take care.

Adam Mitchell

You're welcome and thanks for reading.

It's been a long time since I've written, but you might like to know I've never stopped reading.

Liking the Kirkmania site, still enjoying Invincible, but this is about Walking Dead 48.

This fucking blew me out of the water. It was shit-piss-holy-death-murder-awesome-hell-feathers amazing. I hurt every time someone died, so I hurt a lot. Even when the Governor died it hurt. In a book that centers around death so much, so far along in the story, to feel each one and to make it count for something, is a true accomplishment. I salute you, sir.

-Ryan Walsh

Good to hear from you Ryan. I see you talking about my books on the Jinxworld forums, although, I rarely lower myself to the level needed to go to Bendis' site. You've been reading since the Battle Pope days--and so I'm glad to see I haven't alienated you yet--maybe soon though... here's hoping.

OoooOOoooh, so that's what you meant when you said, "Nobody's safe."

Fred Chamberlain

Heh.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

First off, TWD is the only comic I buy. I have a standing order at the local comic store and consider your story the finest in zombie history.

Nextly, holy fucking shit. Issue 48 made me want to barf, in the best way possible. I've never been so devastated by a COMIC BOOK. Lori dead, huh? The way I see it, there's no way Lori can survive a shot like that, but it does seem possible that Judy might have made it... the bullet didn't seem to hit any vital part of the baby. Thanks for that gruesome thought, by the way.

Lori and the baby are dead! I promise. I'm not even trying to be coy about it and lie in the letters column... they are totally dead. The only reason you didn't see the blast blowing the baby in half is because I thought that would be in pretty poor taste. So yes, both dead--I promise.

Your story is incredibly well-written, I'm just worried that you're killing off characters faster than I can enjoy them. If Andrea dies, you'll probably get another letter from me.

Uh-oh.

Despite my emotional attachments, I think that this miserable, horrible arc is only going to make the story better by forcing it in a completely different direction. No one REALLY wants to read a comic about people just hanging out inside a prison, right?

And if you kill Carl, I'll doubt the idea that Rick would even bother continuing to live. So, thanks for your HORRIBLE FUCKING APRIL FOOL'S JOKE. (I was seriously upset!)

Heh, I'm sure most people don't even know what you're talking about.

Love,
Brittany Lise Waterstradt

P.S. - Super Mario Galaxy rules. You're a genius.

I'm a genius because I agree with you that Super Mario Galaxy is better than anything in this world?
Hey--whatever, I'll take it.

Hi Mr Kirkman,

I like your comic , and i have been read walking dead 48 , but ... YOU KILLED A BABY , oh my god YOU KILLED A BABY oh my god i got nothing else to say after i read this issue , and i feel like i'm about to cry , YOU KILLED A BABY

ARIO MALVI

I'm a baby killer!

You went too far. Sorry. I'm out.

Rebecca Pierce

Well... that just hurts.

For the record, I wrote Rebecca back to get a more fleshed out response from her... and she ignored me. She's obviously pretty pissed.

Captain Kirk!!!! (ok, sorry i HAD to say it)

I just picked up WD 48 today and HOLY CRAP!!! I have never been afraid to read an issue of a comic book before in my entire life before today. I was shaking as i started reading. This is my first letter, so i have to tell you how much i love this book. Anyways, to the point.... Now that the Gov. and his presumed second in command are dead, who is in charge of Woodbury?

Nobody!

Where did Michonne go? Is Lori still alive? SO MANY QUESTIONS!!!!

That you should have the answers to by now! Yay!

Every month something new and crazy happens. Do you have any more zombie comics in the works? Anything new and exciting coming down the pipe with Marvel? Thanks for the great comics and keep up the good work!!!!

James Jackson
Wichita falls, TX

I think I'm swearing off zombie comics for at least the rest of my life. The Walking Dead is it for me. Maybe another Marvel Zombies... eventually. But for now... just this book. I'm already known as the zombie guy. Which, I shouldn't really complain about it, because zombies have been very good to me... but yeah.

P.S. I read in the letter hacks that you haven't read World War Z yet... after you read the book, check out the book on CD, it has some really cool voice talent on it, including henry rollins... great stuff...

I recently bought the book... and I'm going to read it soon, I hope. Or at least the first 80 pages or so.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

I have discovered The Walking Dead a few months ago. I first started reading the trades. I read volumes 5, 6 and 7 in one night; I just could not put them down. And then, it finished on the biggest cliffhanger yet, the general about to attack the prison. There was no way, strictly no way I could wait several months for the next volume. So I switched to the ongoing issues.

HAH! My plan worked!

Rarely has it happened that a comic delivered a genuine rush of emotions. From fear, to horror, to sadness, to anger, to exhalation, and desolation. The biggest feat is that it all happened in a single issue, which is astounding.

Fear, knowing how impossible the situation turned against our team of survivors. Horror, witnessing the gruesome death of Patricia, quickly followed those of Billy and Alice. And then, possibly one of the most shocking images in comic book history, a woman carrying a baby where both of them... I can't find words to describe this, unspeakable, indescribable... "Lovecraftian" would be almost accurate, minus the tentacles. I just plain paused on that page... simply shocked. Sadness, for both Rick and his son... and Lori and her baby. And then the thirst for revenge. I desperately wanted to see the Governor get his long deserved death. I angrily read the following pages. Exhalation, goodbye Governor! And finally, desolation, for both Carl and Rick on the final pages.

Most comics (same goes for books and movies), rarely make you truly feel the emotions. You just know something sad or happy happened, but you do not really feel it. But with this issue, I did. I read it an hour and half ago, and still remember those feelings. Like I did recently after watching Pan's Labyrinth, or a few other truly powerful films.

Thank you, Mr. Kirkman. This massive story arc closed on a bang, which was no less expected.

A devoted reader,

Michel Ouellet

PS: We are lucky that the Comic Code Authority is not around anymore. You would be banned for life (and beyond) from publishing anything.

Yeah, that's totally true. If the Comic Code had any kind of real Authority I'd be screwed for sure. That would really suck. Thank god for things like the CBLDF and the movement to fight censorship in general. This country has been through some scary times and I'm really benefiting from people who came before me and fought the good fight.

Mr. Kirkman,

Just got done reading TWD #48. Wow. I mean it was clear there was going to be a big change, the prison was already ruined by loosing it's fences, but this just felt epic on every level. It started off with an almost humorous moment in the midst of the chaos with Alice and Lori's plan to trick the enemy causing some confusion and momentary horror on Rick's behalf. Just enough to lull you into a false sense of security about the fate of those particular characters, making their eventual demise all the more powerful.

Later, when they first started their run to safety in a classic 'hero' fashion with bullets wizzing past I was just waiting for one to hit. Honestly, I was expecting it to be Carl. Yet having it be Lori and the baby, then have the woman who did it turn on the Governor. Brilliant. And what's more, the bastard is finally dead! Sure a lot of other people had to die for it to come about, but it was completely worth it. Well... it was mostly worth it.

So now we have Rick and Carl, alone... well, Michonne should still be pretty close, right? Can't wait to see what happens in #49. While I can't see them having much trouble from the (former) Governor's group, what with the zombies descending upon them, this being TWD there's got to be more trouble ahead(which is exactly why I love it). Eagerly counting the seconds until my comic book store opens with the next issue...

-Asia Sorenson

Glad you're digging it. Ask questions next time (I'm only printing this because I think you're a girl--and I want to be kind to my female readers).

Robert Kirkman, you fucking asshole.

You killed them. I can't believe you fucking did that. You are a malignant fucking stain. I've been reading since #1, so I'd say I've become somewhat emotionally invested in this little yarn you're spinning. I was a bit comforted when you put my characters in a fucking prison and kept them relatively safe for what-- like 2 years??? And then you dropkick us all in our emotional nuts in one single fucking page.

You're a monster, and I'm sure you will suffer for this.

Anyway, it was a great read. Keep up the good work.

Also, burn in hell, you sadistic little scrotal knot.

Peter Hassett

Trust me, if there's a hell... all the homeless people I've murdered will get me in there way faster than any story I've written in this series. Except the one where I killed that black dude--that one was way out of line.

Robert Kirkman,

First off, you are a bastard. A right mad bastard. I just finished reading issue #48 and one of the many things I have to say is fuck. Fuck. Fuck. Oh my god, fuck. That was fucking awesome! I'm just glad that you had the audacity to pull that off. I love your book and its stuff like this latest arc, hell, this latest issue that make me love it.

I spent the past weekend reading issues #3-47, (I'm still looking for issues #1 and 2, sadly I only found the book at issue 4.) and picked up #48 today. The way that #47 ended with a shotgun to the back of Lori's head, I went oh shit. I spent the next month trying to figure out who was behind her. I even theorized that somehow Michonne was going to off her as payback for Tyreese. I wouldn't put it past her because she's unbalanced as all hell. I only wish that you had played on that a bit more, her being unbalanced not her killing Lori. I love how you lured me into a false sense of security with revealing the immediate threat was a ploy. I really should know better. I don't normally fall for that kind of thing. I think it's because, somewhere even in my twisted mind of horror filled pile of gore I call a conscience, infants seem to be the only ones that are off limits from sudden, violently, gruesome deaths. It hurts that you killed Lori and Judith, but I understand. I have my doubts that Judith is dead, but I'm not holding out hope. I'm glad the Governor bought the farm. Too bad Michonne didn't do it. I'm sad to see everyone die, Patricia, Billy, Hershel, and Alice, as well as everyone else. Everything in service to the story, I suppose. As you've stated previously, the world of TWD is a dangerous place, and no one is safe. Everyone is liable to die on the next panel. I thought we all would've learned that lesson when Otis shot Carl way back when though Carl did survive that little encounter.

I love your book. It's one of my favorite post apocalypse stories. The only two above TWD are Stephen King's The Stand and Richard Matheson's I am Legend. Robert you must read Wor ld War Z. Just keep it up. I'm looking forward to whatever craziness you have planned next. I can't wait.

Thank you,
Will Crays

World War Z, I'm on it. And don't count Michonne out just yet... I'll be delving into her unbalanced nature sooner or later... she won't be following those footprints forever you know.

Hey, Kirkman.

I'm a new reader. I just finished reading all 48 issues. Last night I read issues 1-24, I seriously had a friggin' nightmare. I just finished up to 47. Then I read issue 48. You are have a sick twisted mind. So when does issue 49 come out?

-Matt

It came out in May--sorry for the delay.

Dear Robert,

Holy F%\$ing Sh%\$!!! You were not kidding about killing off people! I have been following this comic since it came out and I am not a huge comic fan, but your teams ability to make the characters walk, talk and become real is...more than I have ever expected out of a comic. You guys have broken more than one taboo since the first issue and this last one...wow. Y'all just broke a big one. Killing off a mother and her new born child?!? Holy S%#\$!!!

You and your team are putting out an amazing story each and every month. I have been buying them at my local comic shop at the start of each month, or when they actually get there, since issue #10. You amaze me and you guys do no let up!

Well done sirs. I expect the shocks, the twists and the awesome to continue for some time.

Great job!
Ford

P.S. If you are able to answer this question with out the typical, "We wanted to shock our readers", please do. Why did you kill off nearly EVERYONE that we have come to care about since The Walking Dead started? Unless you and your team have better characters planned, I can not see how Rick and his son can survive in a world with the Governor's followers (thank God that twisted bastard is dead, or at least he should be now) after them and a world full of zombies. I really hope they make it and maybe, some how, Rick's wife and his new born are not dead.

They're totally completely dead--I promise. The reason they all died in 48 is because it was realistic to me that MOST people would die in that situation. I have comics and TV shows where things get REALLY hairy and then ONE guy dies. I think that sucks. So I kinda wanted to say "Oh man... the shit is hitting the fan" and then really REALLY deliver. So yeah, we just wanted to shock our readers.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

I would just like to say that issue 48 was exactly what I had hoped for. Although I must admit little Judith's demise shocked me, I will take solace in the fact that Rick and Carl are alive and.....alive. Great storytelling with this issue. With this arc, you managed to destroy a large number of comic characters I had developed a love for, but you did it in a way that can only make this book better and the surviving characters stronger. Great job.

Also while I have indeed received my first Walking Dead shirt as well as several zombie mini bust statues, I have yet to receive my Rick Grimes statue. I know it was ordered since I was working at the comic book store at the time and put the order in. Should I order it again?

May the dead keep walking,
Adam Davis

The Walking Dead busts and statues are all made overseas, which unfortunately makes their release dates very loose. There are shipping and custom issues that can hold things up for a long time. They should be available now.

Kirkman,

What, Carl and Rick survive? You pussy.

Heh. Sorry about that.

Seriously, though, #48 is top-notch and completely true to itself. You warned us no one is safe--you were very explicit about this--but after Tyreese bought it we figured, "Okay, I guess he's the one who dies so the rest of them won't." It reminds me of (and is a stark contrast to) the Mutant Massacre in the 1980's, where we were led to believe that three X-men would die... only to find that that wasn't quite what Marvel said, they just implied it, and in the end it turned out to be just another marketing scam. (Instant collector's item! Buy ten copies and slab 'em in Lucite!)

Yeah--I really hate that about comics. If you're going to call it a massacre--make it a real massacre.

Dude, now we believe you. We didn't really but now we do.

Hands down, the best sequence in the series so far is the BLAM-BLAM-BLAM-CLICK-CLICK-(silence) sequence as Lilly and the others retreat into the prison. No words and we don't see what happens and we don't need to. The Woodburians come to the awful, sick realization that--not only have they been deceived by the Governor, not only have they been duped into committing atrocities--but now they're going to die because of it. The real-life parallels need not be belaboured. This is the stuff of horror; well done, sir.

Tim Moerman

Thank you very much, I'm glad you enjoyed it. I think I speak for all of us here at The Walking Dead central when I say that these past few issues have been the most fun we've had in a long long time.

Damn. Daaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaamn!

— Neil Adams —

P.S. Keep up the great work!

P.S. II: I'm 42 years old, and my mom is going to be very disappointed that I cussed not once but twice in a letter that might see publication. But hey, I know of no better way to sum up my thoughts on what may be the most hard-hitting issue in "Walking Dead" history.

P.S. III: My mom will get over it.

Wow, Neal Adams--that's totally awesome. I'm a huge fan of your work. Thanks for writing in. Sorry about cussing in front of your mom.

Just when I felt cheated by the first panel in Issue 48 you did the unthinkable.

You got a big set of balls and you know how to use them.

Kudos to you -- baby killer.

Mark Treitel

Yay--I much prefer "Baby Killer" to "The Zombie Guy."

Dear Mr Kirkman,

I own Krypt Of Comics in Las Vegas Nv. I have been reading your walking dead series since day one. I have never been so furious with the ending of a comic to write in but you have finally broken the mold. I'm still in shock as to how issue #48 ended. Not only did you manage to slaughter all of your characters through the book but you have also done it in such a fashion that all I can do is think about these fictional characters and feel as if I have lost something. I wont go as far to say I think of these characters as REAL Human Beings. But for the first time I must say a comic book has hit me to the extent of calling up my wife, Who also reads the walking dead and is on Trade #3 and telling her how you killed everyone including Rick's new born baby and his wife. At first I felt angry at you for destroying all that you have built up for so long, I even went to the extent of yelling out LOUD, "Fuck this I'm not going to read this mother fucking book any more". Now that a day has gone by and I have time to think I wanted to thank you. I know you get a lot of fans that love your work but I NEEDED to thank you for giving me something that I have never felt from a comic book before, A sensational overwhelming amount of Fear, Sadness, Anger,

Laughter, and Love. You have made me fall in love with comics all over again. Thank you Mr Kirkman for all the time that you have put into your work. It shows that you are truly a master. And by the way did you have to kill the baby???

Krypt Of Comics
Las Vegas Nv 89146
702-877-2665
Benjamin Lublin

Yes, I had to kill the baby. Sorry. I really appreciate the kind words you've got here. It means a lot to me to see this book affect people that way so thanks for sharing. In return, I'm printing your store's contact info. People-- if you're in Vegas, buy some comics from Benjamin here.

Hello,
My name is Bob Ficarra, owner of Metro Entertainment, a comic shop in Santa Barbara, California.

First off, your book is great, absolutely the #1 comic I read the week it ships.

However, the specific reason for my email is I collect original art from my favorite books- please point me in the right direction.

Thanks!
Bob

P.S. How about doing a signing in Santa Barbara?

First off--all original art from this series can be purchased at
www.splashpageart.com

Second--I really just don't have time to do store signings these days. I do local ones, because that's easy... but traveling for them is a pain and I can see more people at a con, so for the most part, I just don't do them.

Dear Kirkman,

Alright, you got me. I've been trying for the longest time to switch to reading this book in trades to save money. But after issue 48, I'm in this for the long haul and I'm not looking back.

Ever since you convinced me personally (in Wizard World Chicago a few years back) to try this book out, it has been one of the most engaging things I've ever read and it hasn't let up. I have to say that Walking Dead is one of the most emotionally brutal things I've ever read. If for any reason I could only buy one book a month, it would probably have to be The Walking Dead. I can't wait to see what's next.

I apologize for the massive amount of praise I've dealt here but seriously, this book deserves it.

Brian Kearney

Thanks, sir. I hope to one day make it back to Wizard World Chicago, it was my first con, and I went there for like three or four years in a row--and then stopped. I haven't been there in years--but someday, I'll return. It's usually a great show.

Dear Mr. Robert Kirkman,

You've killed off most of them. You've even killed a baby.

And that's just amazing.

Where it usually ends in most movies, or even novels, it's just another beginning in the sprawling, cutting epic that is Walking Dead. I can't imagine anyone else taking this huge a risk with their characters and this just proves that you, Mr. Kirkman, never take the easy way out, and that means everything to us, your readers. Sure, there are enough compelling story lines out there but nothing this challenging.

And that's what I love most about Walking Dead. I get a feel where the stories are going but then I tell myself that, no, he would never dare. And you do dare. And I wince, I stifle a girly scream which comes out a girly gasp, and get my heart broken.

But only issue 48 had me do all of them. All at the same time.

And I thank you for that.

Thor Balanon

I usually don't print letters that are just blind praise, as much as I like them--but your first name is THOR so you get a pass.

Kirkland Rathton,

The emoticon for sadness doesn't even come close but I type it anyway... :(I don't think they could invent an emoticon to describe what I'm feeling after reading #48 tonight...

Patricia. Billy. Alice. Lori. Judy. Hershel. The Governor. Total effing carnage...

Numbered questions commencing *tear*:

1) Is Judy really dead? I mean, gore all over the place sure. And she wasn't crying. But maybe the woman was wrong and just didn't check.

It's probably best if she is gone with the biters around and no one there to care for her but... Being a relatively new dad like you I find that when children are depicted being hurt in any way I cringe. I watched "Doomsday" and had a hard time getting through that first scene with our heroine as a young girl. Sheesh...

I'm with you on Doomsday--that first scene was rough. Judith died a quick and painless death--and y'know, in this book she's probably better off dead.

2) I think that panel with Judy's arm sticking up from underneath her mother's lifeless body and Lori staring at the reader is probably the saddest goddammed thing I've ever seen in a comic book EVER. Adlard ripped my heart out this issue and fed it to the roarmers...

I WROTE that panel and when the page came in I still got a little choked up. That panel is just DAMN unsettling. I mean--it's hard to look at. Charlie did an amazing job on this issue... simply amazing. I couldn't have pictured things turning out better.

3) I LOVED the splash page with the BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! CLICK! CLICK!... Makes you wonder...

This isn't a question! Wait--neither was the last one. What gives.

4) I DID NOT love the ad for next issue with Rick's unseen face. He's gotta be shell shocked about his wife and daughter but is he SHAMBLING in that picture? He's SHAMBLING, isn't he????!! "Everything is different now", indeed...

Well, as you can see in this issue--he's NOT a zombie.

5) Issue 48 had like 12 letters printed from a fellow named Scott Spencer. Is he trying to outdo Andrew J. Shaw (who I'm sure has the record of most letters printed in TWD)???

He holds the record now for most letters printed in one issue--that's for sure.

6) OMG, are Scott Spencer and Andrew J. Shaw in fact the SAME PERSON????!!

They aren't. They type completely differently. Scott doesn't use punctuation or capitalization AT ALL--it's really a pain to reformat his letters to make them readable. And Andrew is always short and to the point--the disheartening, bitter point.

7) Hope you enjoyed my benevolent use of ellipses (...) in this letter!!! All for the love of the aposiopesis...

Keep the dream alive.

8) I hope you liked how I forgot to point out on page 2 of #48 the sudden yet brief reappearance of Rick's severed hand...

That is CLEARLY Carl's hand. I don't know what YOU'RE seeing.

Oh, and one favor to ask: if you happen to get letter-writer Amanda Maynard's address let me know. Sounds like her pantry/attic/zombie sanctuary has room for at LEAST a few more people...

**Image Is It,
Dan "Kentucky" Benningfield**

Yeah, you're just interested in her ROOM--sure.

And that does it for letters in this--our fiftieth issue. Here's to another fifty... and then another... and then another.

Hopefully we'll make it to 100 in less time.

See you back here very soon for issue 51.

-Robert Kirkman

